

NITHSDALE AREA COMMITTEE (COMMUNITY)

Meeting of Wednesday 19 June 2013
at 6:30pm in Maxwellton High School, Lochside, Dumfries

Present

Members

Gillian Dykes (Chairman)	- Mid and Upper Nithsdale
Graham Bell	- North West Dumfries
Jack Groom	- Nith
Jeff Leaver	- Lochar
John Martin	- Nith
Tom A McAughtrie	- Abbey
David J McKie	- North West Dumfries
Colin Smyth	- Nith
Davie Stitt	- Abbey
Ted Thompson	- Lochar
Andrew S Wood	- Mid and Upper Nithsdale

Officials

Justin Tracy	- Director of Community & Customer Services
Colin Grant	- Director Education Services
Claire Renton	- Project Manager Schools

Apologies

Andy Ferguson (Vice-Chairman)	- North West Dumfries
Ian Blake	- Abbey
Rob Davidson	- Abbey
Jim H Dempster	- Mid and Upper Nithsdale
Yen Hongmei Jin	- Lochar
Ivor A Hyslop	- Lochar
Ronnie Nicholson	- North West Dumfries
John Syme	- Mid and Upper Nithsdale
Alastair Witts	- Nith

Alex Haswell

Director Chief Executive Service

1 SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

11 Members present, 9 apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NONE declared.

3 DUMFRIES LEARNING TOWN - LEARNING AND TEACHING WORKING GROUP AND CONSULTATION REPORT UPDATE - REPORT BY DIRECTOR EDUCATION SERVICES.

PROCEDURE – the Chairman intimated that with the agreement of Members, a presentation on action taken to date would be received.

Decision

3.1 **NOTED** the following questions from members of the public:-

- Where is the evidence of the effect of transition?
- Is career progression for teachers considered within the options?
- What about the short term implications with regard to attracting probationary teachers to this area?
- What involvement will the Learning and Teacher groups have in the future?
- Why was a business case not developed before options were presented to the public?
- What about the children gifted in music/sports/arts in this area, will provision be made to allow them to be educated in this area?
- What is the deadline for committing the capital funding?
- How much funding will Dumfries and Galloway Council receive?
- When will the transcript from the Education seminar held on 10 June 2013 be available?
- Is this an experiment on our children or is there evidence that a 3rd/4th yr transition school works?
- How will DLT make anyone smarter, what will DLT make better?

NOTED

3.2. the contents of the Dumfries Learning Town: Learning and Teaching Working Groups' Final Report – May 2013 and the emergence of modified strategic options for educational delivery across Dumfries Burgh schools;

3.3 that a full record of consultation and engagement would be made available to Members at the end of June 2013;

3.4 the revised recommendations made at Education Committee on 6 June 2013 as an identified way to progress the learning and teaching around the proposed Dumfries Learning Town development; and

3.5 **AGREED** that a report which would include details of the Business Plan for Options 1 and 2 be brought to the Nithsdale Area Committee prior to being presented to the Full Council meeting in December.

4 PUBLIC FORUM

Decision

NOTED the following concerns from members of the public:-

- the impact on jobs due to the integration of Libraries, Customer and Registration Services and Rationalisation of Community Facilities;
- the proposed siting of the Archive Centre in Ewart Library; and
- that a number of Adult Learning Courses may be discontinued due to reduced funding.

5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN DUE TO THE NEED FOR A DECISION

Decision

NOTED that there was no item of business deemed urgent.